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A. JAMES MIXSON :

SERIAL NO.: 10/018,103 :

ART UNIT: TO BE ASSIGNED

FILED: NOVEMBER 5, 2001 :

EXAMINER: TO BE ASSIGNED

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON D.C. 20231 ON THIS 24th DAY OF April 2002.

BY: Barbara J. Miller

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the specification:

Please delete at page 1, line 2 of the above application the paragraph beginning with "This application ..." and ending with "December 29, 1999."

Please add at page 1, line 2 of the above application the following paragraph:

This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US00/34603, filed December 20, 2000, published in English as International Publication No. WO 01/47496 A1 under PCT Article 21(2). PCT/US00/34603 claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/173,576, filed December 29, 1999.